



IEN Technical Advisory Committee

December 2, 2009, Meeting Minutes

(Approved by Committee on February 3, 2010)

The December 2, 2009 meeting of the IEN Technical Advisory Committee was held in the Barbara Morgan Room, LBJ Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternates Present:

Jerry Reininger (Chair), Meridian School District
Greg Zickau (Co-Chair), Office of the CIO
Randy Gaines, Idaho State University (VTC)

Ann Joslin, Commission for Libraries
Brady Kraft, Idaho Education Network
Jerry Piper, Cambridge Telephone Co. / ITA
Chris Gibson, Jerome School District (phone)
Ryan Gravette, Idaho Digital Learning Academy

Others Present:

Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO
Garry Lough, Idaho Education Network
Jodi McCrosky, Qwest
Keith Murphy, Qwest
Lenny Simpson, ENA

Debra Stephenson-Padilla, Office of the CIO
Joel Strickler, Qwest
Mike Vance, ENA
Mark Westcott, College of Western Idaho
Troy Wheeler, State Dept. of Education

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Jerry Piper moved and Ann Joslin seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 14, 2009; the motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE FROM BRADY KRAFT

Initial goals were to connect 12 systems in 1a and 34 in 1b. Forty Five systems have been ordered and will be installed and operating by January 1. Three additional schools have received a separate grant (through LCSC) to install VTC equipment and are not using IEN funds. This means there is a total of 48 sites that will be active by January 1. About \$1.5 Million is being received from the EETT (Enhancing Education Through Technology) program which will go towards funding origination sites and teacher professional development to help create content originators. The million dollars in RUS grants goes towards receiving sites. Brady noted that all these systems were being paid for from Stimulus, RUS Grant, EETT or LCSC Grant monies, rather than General Fund.

There are 53 locations where connectivity orders have been placed. Nine sites are 100% on the IEN and a number of other sites will be connected very shortly. In some cases, such as Lake Pend Oreille School District (two high schools and one alternative school), it was found to be more economical to connect all schools at the same time. This has resulted in some schools being recorded as "connected" but they not yet ready to be active participants in a VTC exchange. Joel Strickler noted that the goal of having 80 schools on the network in the first year was still on target. Winter conditions impede the progress of work where ground has to be broken but every effort is being taken to connect schools to the network. There is a tremendous amount of infrastructure throughout the state that has been upgraded over the fall, this in turn will support efforts next year.

Brady demonstrated an ENA-managed website (<http://support.ena.com>), whereby school technical directors are given access to view their school's bandwidth consumption and activity. Brady himself has access to reports for all schools.

PHASE 1C SCHOOLS / CONSIDERATIONS

Brady explained that the schools listed in 1b had been chosen based on a set of criteria such as rurality, need etc. However, when it came to reviewing the actual architecture of the sites, obstacles to implementation were encountered which meant that some of the 1b schools might take up to 200 days to complete. Consideration was then given to schools beyond the 1b list that met the standard criteria but also lacked major implementation obstacles, these were brought forward into the 1b list. Schools further down the line with potential long term issues are being addressed now. In this way, potential disappointment is eliminated when setting expectations with schools. It is anticipated that the list of 1c schools will be known by January 1 which will allow six months for ENA and Qwest to complete implementation and, more importantly, for those schools to prepare.

It was noted that the stimulus funds and contributions from the Albertson Foundation would not be affected by any budgetary holdbacks and Brady confirmed that he did not foresee the IEN budget being a problem to maintain through to the end goal of having all 220 schools connected.

RUMOR BUSTERS

A query had arisen from TechTalk dialogue as to what the VTC warranty really meant. Brady had responded with the explanation that the IEN is buying a replacement system warranty, so if a system fails and certain steps are taken, Tandberg will ship a new system the next business day. TechTalk is proving to be a useful mechanism to reach out to district technical staff, particularly those who might feel more isolated than others.

GOOD NEWS

Chris Gibson reported that Jerome High School was using IEN-purchased bandwidth as well as additional bandwidth that the school was able to purchase more cheaply than previously. Chris added that the bandwidth cutover, arranged by ENA, had been entirely seamless. Brady shared another website with the Committee - <http://gis.idaho.gov/ien> - it contains an interactive map showing the different phases of the IEN statewide. Ann Joslin encouraged the addition of the public libraries to the map and Greg noted that work was being undertaken to also add government structures.

STATUS OF ACCESS FOR IEN TO INTERNET

Joel reminded the Committee that Qwest had from the start chosen to use a nationwide facility in Chicago as the initial POP (Point Of Presence) for the IEN. Qwest is in the process of installing a couple of gigabit circuits at a facility on 435 W McGregor Drive, which will support the IEN and will be completed in the first quarter of 2010. Qwest will be guided by this Committee as to the need for geographic diversity from a POP standpoint.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Greg noted that the State Dept. of Education was implementing a longitudinal data system, data that would be residing on the state network. It was going to be important to the IEN and the success of the longitudinal data system to have connectivity between the state network and the education network, possibly sooner than anticipated. Joel advised that an appropriately-scaled connection to the location where the relevant server sits, was all that was required.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO